

BROOKE BLUEBONNET BROADCAST



OCT 15 1945

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

BROOKE GENERAL and CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

AN ARMY SERVICE FORCES INSTALLATION

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

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BROOKE BLUEBONNET BROADCAST

AUTHORIZED BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL GEO. C. BEACH
COMMANDING
BROOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Catholic Mass, Wednesday 8:30 A. M.
Protestant Vesper Service Wed..... 7:00 P. M.
RED CROSS AUDITORIUM, OLD HOSPITAL:

Sunday
Catholic Mass 10:00 A. M.
Protestant Worship 9:00 A. M.
Protestant Vespers 5:30 P. M.
Weekdays
Protestant Vesper Service, Wed..... 5:30 P. M.

"IF A MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?"

Throughout the ages, mankind has clung to a hope for another life. The Oriental has consulted his "ancestors" before making any major decision, and lived as though these ancestors were bodily present with him. The Egyptian felt that his King, or Pharaoh would have another existence, so he embalmed him well, and buried him, surrounded by his possessions, with food and other requisites for his well-being, in the great pyramids. The Hindu thought that man's future existence would come as reincarnation, perhaps in the form of an animal. Hence, one should never kill an animal, for fear of killing some kinsman or friend. Our American Indians looked forward to a future existence in the Happy Hunting Grounds, where game would always be plentiful, and the hunter would be freed from all troubles.

Nature, also, in many ways reveals a metamorphosis from one type of existence to another. A seed looks dull, dried, and dead, but in due time, when surrounded by the proper environment, the latent life bursts the bonds of the hull, and sprouts into a new existence as a new plant. Similarly, the beautiful butterfly went through the stage of the voracious caterpillar before it passed into the latent stage of the pupa, where it seemed more dead than alive, from which it emerged in its splendor as the butterfly.

With these examples from nature before us, and the many forms in which the hope for future existence appears in almost all tribes and races of mankind, the question of a future existence for us becomes a pertinent one. Job of old expressed the hope in the words, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). The reply was hopeful, although indefinite.

Religion in general has answered this question with a positive "Yes!" The various kinds of religion have differed in their interpretations of the form this continued life would take. In general, however, it has been agreed that those who please God, or who have obtained His favor will find the future existence a happy one.

Spring has been a symbol of this continued existence, in a nobler, better, form for mankind throughout the ages. To the Hebrew,

(Continued on Page 14)

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THE CHAPEL



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT BROOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL

NEW HOSPITAL CHAPEL:

Sunday

Catholic Mass 6:15 A. M. & 8:30 A. M.
Protestant Worship 10:00 A. M.
Protestant Vespers 7:00 P. M.

RED CROSS AUDITORIUM, NEW HOSPITAL:
Sunday School for Children 10:00 A. M.

NEW HOSPITAL CHAPEL:

Weekdays

Catholic Mass, daily except Wed..... 5:30 P. M.

VISITS BROOKE



Dr. Robert A. Hingson

SURGEON

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Originator and first to introduce the use of
continuous caudal block anesthesia

DR. HINGSON, Originator of Continuous Caudal Block Anesthesia Visits Brooke Hospital . . .

Dr. Robert A. Hingson, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, originator and first to introduce the use of continuous caudal block anesthesia for painless childbirth, which is in use at Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital, visited here March 11th through the 14th.

Dr. Hingson's visit to Brooke was authorized by Surgeon General Thomas Parran of the United States Public Health Service. He came for the express purpose of consulting with Major James M. Siever, Chief of the Obstetrical Section of Brooke Hospital, and to survey with Major Siever the results

of continuous caudal anesthesia during the past three years.

In the first three years of the use of continuous caudal block anesthesia, 100,000 American babies have been delivered to mothers under this form of management and 2,500 of them have been delivered here in San Antonio at the Brooke Hospital. This is the largest single series in obstetrics of any clinic in the United States.

While here Dr. Hingson and Major Siever conferred concerning improvements and modifications in the continuous caudal block technique which will provide optimum safety for mother and baby.

The Obstetrical Section

BROOKE GENERAL AND CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

The Obstetrical Section of Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital (Ward 10) is located on the sixth floor of the main building of the new hospital. The purpose of the Obstetrical Section is to provide wives of military personnel with a place surrounded by the latest scientific safeguards where they may give birth to their babies and enjoy maximum comfort.

Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital has the distinction of being one of the few army hospitals which maintains an obstetrical section, and due to the increased war casualties, expansion of the maternity ward has not been possible. To do so would mean taking beds away from the wounded and the wounded at Brooke are on the priority list.

Major J. M. Siever is the Chief of the Obstetrical Section and is assisted by Captain B. L. Burditt.

Major Siever graduated from the University of Kansas Medical School in 1937. In 1938 he trained in obstetrics at the Kansas City General Hospital. Rotating internship was served at Baylor University Hospital, Dallas, Texas, for a year, followed by two years obstetrical residency at Baylor University Hospital.

Major Siever reported for active duty on 15 December, 1940, and since that time has been on the Obstetrical Section at Brooke.

Captain Burditt graduated from Baylor Hospital, College of Medicine in 1940. He served his internship at Baylor Hospital in 1940-41 and reported for active duty with the Army in 1941. On 18 February, 1942, Captain Burditt went overseas where he served for 22 months in the Southwest Pacific. He returned 12 January, 1944. Assigned to the Obstetrical Section at Brooke in March of 1944, Captain Burditt serves in the capacity of assistant ward officer.

At Brooke, there are facilities for delivering 120 babies a month. In addition to the maternity ward, there is also a Prenatal Clinic where all patients are given complete prenatal care during the entire pregnancy. Major Siever and Captain Burditt, in addition to their daily work in the maternity ward also serve as emergency obstetrical officers, each taking calls every other night. All of the babies born at Brooke are delivered by these two medical officers.

Due to the limited number of beds available, prospective mothers are urged to

(Continued on Page 6)



Major James M. Siever

CHIEF OF THE
OBSTETRICAL SECTION
BROOKE GENERAL AND CONVALESCENT
HOSPITAL



Captain Bucky L. Burditt, assistant to Major Siever and assistant ward officer of Ward 10.



contact the Prenatal Clinic as early as possible to assure themselves of a bed reservation for the expected date of the baby's arrival. Visits to the Clinic are made once a month during the first six months; twice a month for the following two months and each week in the last month to assure the prospective mother that she will be in excellent condition for delivery. While the patient is attending the Clinic, a special effort is made to see that she talks to the same doctor each time. This is to aid her in feeling at ease and to avoid confusion. Also it gives the doctor an opportunity to know each individual patient and be well acquainted with the characteristics of each case.

The very low morbidity and mortality rate in the Obstetrical Section is largely due to the fact that prospective mothers are given adequate and careful prenatal attention. The very latest scientific facilities are provided in order to assure comfort to both mother and baby.

When the mother is admitted to the hospital in labor she is placed in an individual, private labor room which is equipped with air-conditioning. Each labor room is also equipped with a radio for the patient's enjoyment. Specially trained nurses are kept in the labor room suite in constant at-

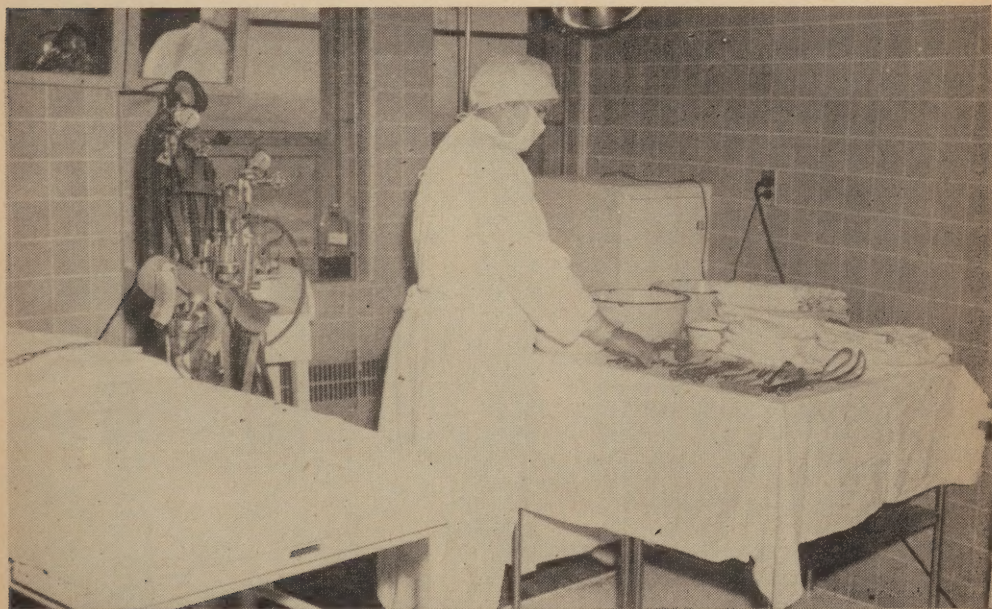
tendance. The patient is surrounded by every convenience and safeguard to prevent any unforeseen complications. Oxygen, plasma, blood transfusions and all other emergency equipment are readily available.

The nursery on Ward 10 is equipped with ultra-violet ray sterilization lamps to destroy airborne bacteria. In addition, the nursery is air-conditioned, providing a constant temperature and humidity the year round. The air is completely changed in the nursery every two minutes. No one is allowed in the nursery excepting those who care for the babies and even they are not allowed in the nursery without wearing a sterile gown, hat and mask. This is to protect the babies from any possible outside contamination.

Babies are handled as little as possible and only by those individuals who are properly clothed and whose hands have been properly disinfected. Babies are never shown to anyone, but they may be viewed through the large glass windows of the nursery. When the babies are taken to their mothers for feeding, they are placed in sterile wrapper coverings, the entire body excepting the head being covered and the mother, for further protection washes



A view of one of the four air-conditioned labor rooms located in the obstetrical ward at Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital. The patient is Mrs. Patricia Bagwell, wife of 2nd Lt. William Charles Bagwell, Parachute Landing Division, Randolph Field, Texas.



Mrs. Velma Davenport, Civil Service Nurse, on duty in the obstetrical ward, arranges instruments in readiness for a delivery. The delivery room is located on the same floor as the maternity ward, and all deliveries except caesarian sections are done here.



Above, a partial view of the Nursery. Located in the obstetrical ward, every precaution possible is taken to insure baby's health. Ultraviolet ray sterilization lamps which free the air of germs can be seen on the walls of the nursery.



2nd Lt. Margaret Gist, ANC of Conway, Arkansas, administering oxygen to a premature baby in the Nursery especially equipped for premature babies.



Major Siever confers with Dr. Hingson, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, during Dr. Hingson's visit to Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital. Modifications in the use of continuous casual block anesthesia were discussed during the four-day conference.

THE OBSTETRICAL SECTION

(Continued from Page 6)

her hands with alcohol and wears a mask while feeding the baby.

While baby is in the hospital, all clothing is furnished. The clothing is carefully sterilized after each wearing and all clothing and diapers which go into the Nursery are sterilized by steam autoclave, thus baby's health is completely protected from all types of infection and contamination.

A special, separate nursery is available for premature babies. It is equipped with the latest devices and incubators for the tiny baby who must have special care. This nursery is also air-conditioned and humidified and the temperature is not allowed to vary more than one degree at any time. As the premature baby is much more susceptible to infection, no one is allowed to enter this room except the doctor in charge and one nurse who is designated to care for the prematures.

This premature nursery was equipped through the efforts of the Red Cross Canteen headed by Mrs. Geo. C. Beach, wife of Brigadier General Geo. C. Beach, who is in command of Brooke.

In addition to the incubators, an automatic respirator or miniature iron lung is

available for any baby having difficulties with respiration.

Brooke hospital was the second hospital in the United States to make use of Continuous Caudal Block Anesthesia for the relief of pain in childbirth. By the use of this type of anesthesia, maternal morbidity has been tremendously reduced and fetal mortality has been reduced by half. It is the safest type of anesthesia known at the present time for use in obstetrics. Over 100,000 cases have been managed by this method in the United States with a lower fetal mortality rate than in any other comparative group.

Continuous Caudal Block Anesthesia is a technical procedure which should be used by only those experienced and well trained in this type of anesthesia. Over 2,500 cases have been managed at Brooke which is the largest single series of cases yet reported in the United States. The method is simply the injection of an anesthesia solution into the sacral canal, bathing the pain nerves to the uterus. The anesthesia agent has no effect on other parts of the body, and best of all, it has no effect upon the baby. It is purely a local type of anesthesia. Nurses and doctors at

(Continued on Page 14)

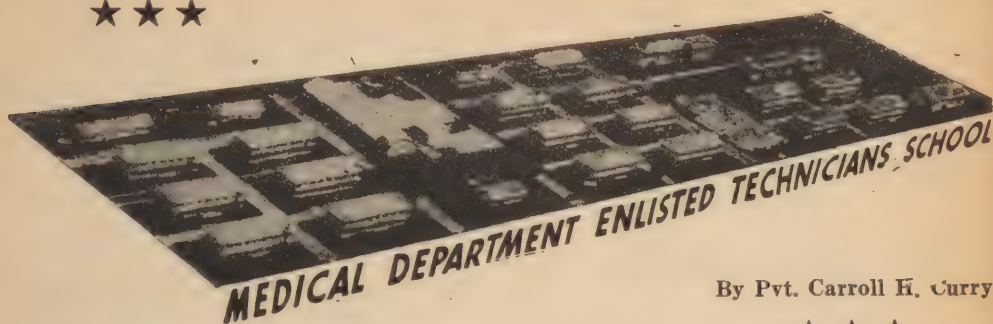


Major Robert C. L. Robertson

**FORMER CHIEF NEUROSURGICAL SECTION
THIS HOSPITAL**

**NOW MEMBER OF THE STAFF
McGUIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL**

(See Page 18)



By Pvt. Carroll H. Curry



CAMPUS NOTES

April 1 marks four years of service in the Medical Department Enlisted Technicians School. Plans are being made for a fitting celebration of the event, to be held at Salado Pool on the evening of April 3. M/Sgt. Marts reports that it is to be a "do as you dern please" party—with plenty of music, dancing and refreshments, liquid and otherwise. The entire staff of the school is to be invited, student instructors, enlisted instructors, officers, civilian employees and guests of staff members. If this shindig is carried off in true tech school tradition, it will be a gala and never-to-be-forgotten evening. For those who do not wish to dance, there will be several games in progress—softball, hoss shoes, bridge, blackjack, craps—whoa!! How did that get in there?

* * *

The smoking members of the staff look quite a lot like enlisted executives lately. A number of recent promotions have filled all the desk cigar boxes. The latest are: Adolph Patzewitsch to Master Sergeant; Byron A. Huhmphreys to Technical Sergeant, Peter L. Kodis to Technical Sergeant, John P. Baeyens to Technician Third Grade, Vincent J. Toro to Technician Third Grade, Richard F. Brittingham to Sergeant Jack W. Harrell to Sergeant, Dale H. Holmes to Corporal, Barksdale M. Payne to Corporal.

* * *

At this point we wish to speak for the entire school in welcoming the many recent additions to the staff. We have acquired twenty-one enlisted men and one officer. Capt. Newton Hornick, who has been assigned as instructor in the X-ray section, is on duty and awaiting the arrival of his family. Master Sergeant William T. Smith, who came from Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, will be first sergeant of Company "A." Eighteen instructors were sent from the school at O'Reilly Gen-

eral Hospital, and two clerks arrived recently from Dallas.

* * *

Pfc. Raymond Nelson is all smiles and beams these days. His spouse just arrived from Oregon. Some of the boys are anxious to meet Bessie. They have much to tell her.

* * *

Wonder how Lt. Scruggs would look with a GI haircut? 'Stoo bad he has to keep that hair covered by a cap.

* * *

Capt. Jim Kelley's marriage seems to have brought a streak of bad luck. He is now missing one Buick automobile, passenger, green, M1941. It is the guess of this department that a possessor of one of the many keys to his car merely borrowed it for a while.

* * *

Looks as if Col. Fargo has a bang-up volleyball team this season. Guthrie's sports column should give all the particulars soon.

* * *

Bill Lytle's hobby of painting nudes on artificial eyes is said to have caused quite a disturbance in a local brew emporium a couple of weeks ago.

* * *

Mil Milford says that the atmosphere is just right at the team's favorite hang-out. They never sweep the floor.

* * *

Sgt. John "General" Iverson says that he's losing weight rapidly—at least three ounces in the past three months.

* * *

Some of the students in the laboratory section are wondering why T-5 Johnson is called "Smokey."

* * *

Capt. Stout of the dental clinic has a valuable assistant. Lt. Wasserman keeps the instruments and equipment on top of the cabinet, ready for immediate use.

(Continued on Page 13)

★ SPORTS ★

EDITED BY PVT. RANDALL C. GUTHRIE

MEDICS WIN SERVICE LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL TITLE

The Brooke General Medical Department Enlisted Technical School volleyball team was crowned champion of the San Antonio Service League March 22, at Brooks Field, after a hard fought victory over a tough Randolph Field team.

The Brooke team won their way to the finals and the championship by eliminating four of the sixteen teams entered in the tournament in straight games and then turned on the heat to take the final game of the championship set with the Ramblers.

Frank Elston, 6-foot, 5-inch towering spiker, and James Ledford, another 6-foot 5-incher, kept up a terrific barrage on their opponents throughout the meet. They were aided at the net by T/3 John Baeyens, another capable spiker. These three men continually kept the air corps teams on their heels with vicious drives. Other men on the team were Bart Olson, Clifford Fair, Randall Guthrie and Bill Millford. With the exception of Millford, all are setters.

Col. Warren C. Fargo, Medical Department Enlisted Technical School Assistant Commandant, and volleyball expert, coached and directed the team. He was ably assisted by 1st Lt. John J. Ward, who supervised the early organization and direction of the squad.

The Medics swept through the tournament with ease until the last two matches. They bowled over San Marcos, Stinson Field and Normoyle to enter the semi-finals. They encountered some trouble in disposing of Randolph Field's No. 2 team, but finally won two straight games.

In the finals Randolph Field's No. 1 team really gave the Medics a battle. The first game was won by MDETS 15-13 in an extended match. The Ramblers came back to win the second game, the first and only game the Medics lost in the tourney, 14-11. In the final and deciding game, Col. Fargo's boys literally annihilated their opponents in administering a decisive 15-3 trimming to annex the 1945 championship.

Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital's No. 2 team won their way to the semi-finals in another bracket, but was

eliminated by Randolph No. 2. They had previously won three matches.

Previously the MDETS team represented the 5th Texas district in the Eighth Service Command Volleyball championship play-offs at Temple, Texas. They placed third in this tournament.

GODOY AT FORT SAM

Arturo Godoy, contender for the world's heavyweight boxing championship, gave a two-hour boxing exhibition at Fort Sam Houston Sports Arena March 22, to approximately two hundred fight fans.

Godoy, the man who gave world's heavyweight champion, Joe Louis, a real battle both times they met, exhibited his unorthodox boxing skill to a very appreciative audience.

He boxed three rounds with a very capable sparring partner, powdered the punching bag and gave a dazzling rope skipping exhibition.

Before some 5,000 fans at the Municipal Auditorium, March 27th, the 198-pound South American, ripping out of the same
(Sports Continued on Page 13)



"I got connections"

SPORTS

(Continued from Page 12)

crouch that he used so effectively against Joe Louis, dropped the towering Indianapolis product, Johnny Denson, early in the first round for a count of nine.

Godoy unleashed two terrific blows, a straight left to the middle and a right cross to the jaw, to hang up his first knockout win of his recently inaugurated tour of Southwestern United States.

BROOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL BOWLING TEAM FINISHES FIRST IN LEAGUE PLAYING

The following named enlisted men who make up the Brooke General Hospital bowling team finished in first place in the Broadway Commercial League, by a one game lead against strong competition.

AVERAGES

T/Sgt. William P. Petersen, captain.....	170
T/Sgt. Frank L. Evans.....	160
Sgt. George Splittorf.....	150
Pvt. George Herman.....	172
Pvt. John L. Lyons.....	150

The league is comprised of eight teams, bowling one night a week, three games a night. The last six games of the league were won by the Brooke General Hospital, giving them a one game lead to take the championship.



A Topp

"Soldier, your underwear is not GI."

MDETS NEWS

(Continued from Page 11)

Early morning scene: Lt. Ward drilling his student instructor drill assistants—and getting a terrific boot out of mixing them up. Easy does it, "Sir John."

* * *

T/4 Clearman wonders if the guy who wrote "Home in S. A." ever tried to find an apartment in S. A.

* * *

We'll end by calling your attention to the cartooning by Pvt. Alex Topp. Topp, who is now a student in the Laboratory Section, used to do a lot of art work for the publication of Halloran General Hospital.



Cumy

"I prefer to think that it stands for 'tact.'"

THE OBSTETRICAL SECTION

(Continued from Page 9)

Brooke are thoroughly trained in the use of this method. Since using it, no mothers have been lost and the fetal mortality has been greatly reduced.

In 1944 at Brooke, 1,200 babies were delivered, 14 being twins. There were 14,218 prenatal visits in the Clinic. In addition to the delivery and prenatal care, the patients are also checked routinely at six weeks postpartum. At this time any abnormality which may have occurred during pregnancy or labor is corrected and subsequent checkups are given, if necessary, until the patient is completely well. The objective of the Obstetrical Section is to produce a viable baby and just as important, to leave the mother in as good or in even better physical condition after baby arrives than before. The patient is not officially discharged from the Obstetrical Section until these objectives are accomplished.

"IF A MAN DIE . . ."

(Continued from Page 2)

it represented the Passover Season, which reminded him of the time he was emancipated from the Egyptian slavery, and was metamorphosed into a new Nation. Thus, as the nation emerged should not the individual also continue his existence in a new sphere?

Christianity takes the same season in a somewhat symbolic form. It was at the Passover season that the Christ overcame death, as a pledge that mankind would also pass from death into a new life.

If this be true, as we believe it to be, then it behooves us to live so that our lives will be worth carrying on in a newer, better existence. But even if it were not, it is still better for us in this life to build our lives upon the principles of truth, justice, righteousness, and honor, as these form the basis of a happy life now. Thus, living on the basis of these principles gives us a situation in which we cannot lose—Contentment and happiness in this present age, and thereafter, Eternal Bliss.

May the Easter season bring happiness to you.

B. H. BOMFALK
Chaplain (Captain).

MAKE IT A YEAR-ROUND HABIT TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Eight out of every 10 deaths among military personnel in the Eighth Service Command in 1944 resulted from injuries sustained in accidents.

This ratio was recently given by Briga-

dier General C. B. Rucker, service command chief of staff. Despite the intensive safety program throughout the service command, General Rucker said, 25,000 soldiers were injured last year in accidents which might have been prevented. This total includes accidents in all categories—men in training, at work, on duty and off duty.

The average loss of time in each of these injuries was 13 days, the chief of staff pointed out, and many of those injured returned to duty unfit for assignment to combat units.

An encouraging drop in the accident rate among service command civilian employees was noted by General Rucker, a decrease of 44 per cent in 1944 under 1943.

"But there is need for still more intensive effort in our safety program," he said, "particularly when we consider the number of accidents involving military personnel."

Discussing ways and means of reducing traffic accidents, Colonel Homer W. Garrison, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, disclosed there were 154 fatal accidents involving military personnel in Texas in the first 11 months of 1944. Colonel Garrison praised the co-operative measures taken by the service command in seeking more effective control of traffic accidents to military personnel while off duty, one of the chief factors in the military accident rate.

NEW "HOMeward BOUND" TELEGRAPH SERVICE

The Federal Communications Commission has approved a "Homeward Bound" telegraph service which will be offered by Western Union to military personnel returning from overseas, it was announced recently by Mr. C. S. Johnson, local superintendent of the telegraph company.

The new service, providing fifteen fixed-text messages, will be available at certain debarkation hospitals, reception centers through which men returning from overseas will pass, and separation centers from which they will receive their final military discharges. The "Homeward Bound" messages may be sent at a special 25c rate from these debarkation points, which includes Fort Sam Houston in its entirety, to any Western Union destination in the United States. One of the messages reads:

ARRIVED BY PLANE. EXPECT TO
SEE YOU SOON. WILL WRITE AT
NEXT STATION. LOVE."

This service at a special rate for the armed forces, he said, is comparable to the present low, flat rates on telegraphic money orders to and from members of the armed forces.



DRAWN BY
JOEY GOTTIEB

POETRY BY
JOEY GOTTIEB

LEAVING MATCHES ON A STAIRWAY,
CAN REALLY HURT SOMEONE - DEAR FRIEND;
'CAUSE EVEN IF THEY ESCAPE A HOT-FOOT,
THEY'RE BOUND TO GET HURT IN THE END.

SECOND OF A SERIES OF CARTOONS STRESSING "SAFETY"



RECENT VISITOR
AT BROOKE

Mr. Paul Muni

STAR OF STAGE
AND SCREEN

Meet T-4 Milton Berg . . .

Written by his good friend Sgt. C. J. Robertson, Jr.

One of a Series of Sketches on DMD Personnel



TECHNICIAN FOURTH GRADE MILTON L. BERG

Among army personnel in the San Antonio area there are many noted and successful musicians. Sgt. Melton L. Berg, who hails from Lansing, Michigan, is well known around the local Army camps and in San Antonio, where he has been heard in various programs at U.S.O. Service Clubs, and at various Churches. Sergeant Berg was heard in recital at the Witte Museum in 1942 and at present, is continuing his music as pianist for Chapel services at Brooke General Hospital.

It will be noted that music has been closely interwoven with all activities in Berg's life—interwoven to such an extent that he married an accomplished violinist, Marion Larson Berg, who is also from Lansing. Needless to say, they are a team which is in constant demand by music lovers. These two are people who others

enjoy meeting and knowing even though unaware of their musical abilities.

Berg comes from a musical family. His mother taught in the Eau Claire State Teachers College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and the Sgt. studied piano with her for 15 years. As a child, he performed for Civic Clubs and was featured in Recitals. Another one of his teachers in Eau Claire was the noted blind composer and pianist, Harold J. Konrad.

After receiving the first four-year piano scholarship offered by the late Prof. Lewis Richards at the Michigan State College Sergeant Berg left Wisconsin. Of interest is the fact that Lewis Richards was the famous Belgian Concert Harpsichordist and Pianist.

Upon graduation from Michigan State

(Continued on Page 18)

College, Berg received his B.A. Degree with a major in the Romance Languages. Not yet satisfied with his education, Milton went to Chicago and after three years work at the Northern Illinois College of Optometry, he graduated with a Doctor of Optometry degree.

Prior to induction into the service, he practiced Optometry for nine years in the Olds Tower, Lansing. Just as a matter of review, it should be noted that Berg gave recitals for the leading musical organizations of Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek and Ann Arbor as well as serving as Club pianist for the Lansing Rotary Club.

All of this is a matter of the past and dreams of the future. At present, Milton is happily serving his country well as an Optometrist in the Eye Clinic of the Brooke General Hospital. He is very popular with the patients who are officers, enlisted personnel and their dependents.

When asked if he liked Texas (Texans always ask that of foreigners) he replied that he liked Texas just fine and that the Texans have treated him royally.

OUR LOSS, MCGUIRE'S GAIN RE: MAJOR ROBERTSON

The following is an extract from the McGuire Banner, hospital publication:

"McGuire Readied for Neurosurgery Patient Arrivals

"McGuire is now equipped to handle a sizeable number of patients requiring specialized care in neurosurgery, the definitive specialty recently assigned the hospital, according to Major R. C. L. Robertson, who recently arrived to assume the job of McGuire's chief of neurosurgery.

"A shortage of ward officers to work under the direction of specialists, he said, is the chief holdup in preparations to assign for specialized care McGuire's full quota of 1,440 beds for neurosurgery. In addition to Major Robertson, neurosurgery specialists now stationed here are Major S. Shenkman and Captain William T. Peachey.

"Already 278 beds have been made available for specialized care, he reported, and others will be assigned as equipment arrives and personnel is chosen to man the wards. Buildings 207 and 108 are concentration points for neurosurgery patients. Officers are treated in wards 15 and 16.

"Major Robertson arrived at McGuire February 23 from Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Before entering the army in March, 1942, he practiced in Houston, Texas."

NEW DISCHARGE FORM

The Army has prepared a new discharge form for both officer and enlisted personnel. It combines the discharge certificate or the certificate of service, with the report of separation, and is designed to assist both the discharged veteran and his future employer.

The new form supplies prospective employers and governmental agencies with a concise history of each veteran. In addition to personal data, it contains a brief record of the man's military history, his length of service, military occupational specialty, battles, campaigns and awards received. Listed, too, is a record of each service school attended. It serves as a discharge certificate or certificate of service for officer or enlisted personnel, and thus enables the veteran to have with him at all times his credentials and history, combined in one brief paper.

Eight copies of the report of separation are made at one writing, as a time and money saver. They are sent to the governmental agencies which assist the veteran in obtaining the benefits and privileges due him. Copies now go to the soldier; to The Adjutant General, for the soldier's personal record; the Service Command from which he was inducted; Veterans' Administration Headquarters; Veterans' Administration Regional Office; State Director of Selective Service; Selective Service Re-Employment Committeeman, and Veterans' Employment Representative.

These new forms represent the consolidation of twenty forms previously used, and give in a concise and compact manner a comprehensive picture of the training and experience of each man discharged from the Army.

ELUSIVE

Take the sparkle of a sunbeam
Dancing o'er the sea,
Take the warmth of a summer breeze
Caressing a tree.
Take the glow of the moon-light
Gleaming o'er the hill,
Take the twinkle of the stars . . .
Then you'll know the thrill
That comes stealing o'er me
Where'er you pass my way,
And why I keep on hoping
Someday, you'll come to stay.

—Helen J. Armstrong.

Correction

In the last issue of the B.B.B., line 6 of the second verse of "Can't Help Wondering," written by Lt. Helen J. Armstrong, ANC should have read: "I'm not afraid I'll be hurt." Due to a typographical error the line read: "I'm afraid I'll be hurt."

Loan of Witte Museum Kiln Aids O. T. Patients To Fire Pottery



In the picture above are the following who were on hand to see the ovens opened after the pottery they had designed was fired, include: Pvt. George B. Barstow, Pfc. Dunmeyer, Pfc. Sam Porter, Pvt. John Gibson, Cpl. James L. Lawrence, Cpl. Rudolph C. Zwrovec, Pvt. Michael Pompa, Pvt. Joseph Kelly, S/Sgt. Archie Hartzell, Sgt. Richard L. Oveman and Pvt. William G. Oghtree. Others on hand to see the oven opened included Captain Earl R. Haight, Mrs. Kenneth F. Zitzman, Miss Ruth Butler, Harding Black, Ceramic Teacher of the Witte Museum, and Misses Mary Louise Fry and Ruth Pray, Occupational Therapy students.

Through the cooperation of the Witte Museum at Brackenridge Park, members of Brooke's Ceramic classes—all patients of the hospital—were recently able to fire the pottery which they had moulded themselves in the occupational therapy shop at Annex IV.

Classes in Ceramics are conducted by the occupational therapy section of the hospital with instructions given daily, Monday through Friday from 1:30 to 3:00 in the afternoon. Materials are supplied without charge and when the project is completed, it becomes the patients' own to send home if he so desires.

Because it has been found beneficial to keep the hands and mind busy in order to aid nature in effecting a speedy recovery, Occupational Therapy was introduced to hospital patients at Brooke a year ago in January. The program has steadily grown and Ceramics promises to become one of the most interesting of all the various treatments given in this program.

The moulding of pottery has been assigned to many returned wounded, particularly in cases of hand or leg injury. The use of a potter's kick wheel enables motion to return to knees and at the same time strengthens muscles of the legs.



Patients of the Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital gather 'round the kiln at Witte Museum to admire the various pieces of pottery which they made while doing corrective treatment in Occupational Therapy. The pottery being unloaded from the ovens was all designed and made by patients of Brooke's Reconditioning Unit.

Pottery moulding is also beneficial to injuries of the hand or lower arm.

Supervision of the classes in Ceramics is under the following: Captain Earl R. Haight, Chief of Occupational Therapy;

Mrs. Kenneth F. Zitzman, Craft Instructor; Miss Ruth H. Butler, senior Occupational Therapy Aide; Misses Mary Louise Fry and Ruth Pray, Occupational Therapy students.

The following poem was written by First Lieutenant Whitlock Zander, son of Mrs. Ollie Zander of Civilian Personnel, Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital:

HOME

The word that means the world to me,
And to the boys who are at sea;
Including those on foreign soil,
Who all day do fight and toil;
No matter the distance they may roam,
Their thoughts are always back at home.
Home means more than a place to play,
Or a place to spend your weekly pay;
It means joy, and hope and life,
A place to lay away all strife;
A place to lie down in at night,
Knowing the morn will dawn real bright.
Home means a bathroom, containing a tub,
With lots of water, with soap to rub.
Home means a kitchen, a place to eat,
It means a knife to cut your meat;
It means an ice-box standing by,
With lots of fruit and apple pie.
The bedroom is also a wonderful site,

With a soft bed to fall into at night;
With never a thought of sadness or sorrow,
You go to sleep thinking of the happy to-morrow.

Ever since being a little tot,
The living room's been my favorite spot;
It's got a couch and lots of chairs,
It's the place where the radio blares;
And as your friends come there at night,
The room lights up and all is right.
Home means a front yard and a place to play,

From early in the morn, till late in the day;
With its roses and grasses so green,
A prettier sight you've never seen.
Home is the place where your loved ones stay,

With your mother or wife to lead the way;
And in the morning they never miss
To give you a smile and a real big kiss.
In summing things up, that's where I belong,
Cause, there everything's right, and nothing's wrong;

And so each night in silent prayer,
I ask God soon to take me there.

—1st Lt. Whitlock Zander.

61-YEAR OLD VETERAN NOW AT FORT SAM

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Tex. — Along with the kids who hit the beaches of Saipan, Kwajalein and Eniwetok went 61-year-old M/Sgt. Olin S. Dickinson, who reenlisted a day after Pearl Harbor to help beat the Japs after he had helped lick the Germans in 1917-1918. Right now he's stationed at the Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station at Fort Sam Houston with many of the infantrymen who served with him in this war. Dickinson says he feels as young as the youngest of them.

He began his first hitch (he has two years to go to complete his tenth) in 1911 and, in France, saw action with the 36th (Texas) Division at the Meuse-Argonne, Champagne and Verdun sectors, winning the Croix de Guerre. He was inactive from 1936 to Dec. 8, 1941.

Since his reenlistment he has served in the Hawaiian Islands, where he was called "Pop" by Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. And as sergeant major of an evacuation hospital he saw duty at Saipan, Kwajalein, Eniwetok and several other Pacific islands. He wears three World War I and five World II overseas chevrons and two wound stripes from the last war.

Dickinson, whose son recently received a disability discharge from the Army, says "old Army men" come and go, but he expects to go on forever.

"For the duration, anyway," he adds.



Photographed at right, Master Sgt. Olin S. Dickinson, 61-year-old veteran of Saipan, Kwajalein and Eniwetok, who is now stationed at the Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station at Fort Sam Houston, Tex.



The above was submitted by courtesy of the Public Relations office, Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



—U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo.

PERSONALITY PLUS



JOEL BURNS WHEELER

The above photo was taken when little Joel Burns Wheeler, at the tender age of 6 months, won Honorable Mention in a Personality Contest. There were 300 entries comprising babies from 4 to 6 months and children up to 10 years of age, and of only 10 Honorable Mention Prizes, little Joel captured one.

Joel, who was born at Brooke General Hospital and who was a year old on February 22, is the son of Sgt. and Mrs. Don R. Wheeler of Boise, Idaho. Sgt. Wheeler was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, with "A" Battery, 577th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, before turning into the hospital in November, 1943. He has been a patient at Brooke for the past 16 months, and is at present a resident of Ward 6.

Mrs. Wheeler with her two sons, Wayne Douglas, 3, and Joel, 1, resides at 1830 W. Olmos Drive, San Antonio.

OVERSEA MAIL

No one will dispute the statement that mail is always a matter of great interest to a soldier, and further, that it becomes even more so when he is overseas. It is an important thread between the life with which he is familiar, and the new and strange experience which he is undergoing.

Questions are constantly being asked by men overseas—why don't I get my mail? Here I am in the hospital and I haven't had a letter from my family—Why does my wife get my letters in a few days, but it takes weeks for hers to reach me? Although nothing can take the place of those looked-for letters, an explanation may make the delay less disturbing.

Some soldiers experience difficulties in receiving their mail when they first go overseas. During those early months abroad, a soldier is transferred through various replacement centers and other installations before being assigned to a permanent unit. Each move means that each letter has to be checked against records of transfers, have the address corrected, and then be forwarded. As soon as he is permanently assigned, the soldier should notify his family and friends and then correspondence will go directly to his permanent unit.

The same situation exists in the case of a wounded soldier. The wounded and sick are moved to the rear through a series of hospitals in order to receive appropriate treatment. A similar process of checking records and forwarding mail must be followed until such time as he remains in one place long enough to notify his family and friends of his new address. Emergency addresses of seriously ill and wounded soldiers are notified of the new address immediately by a member of the hospital staff. This helps to speed the delivery of mail to men in hospitals.

Some soldiers worry about the fact that their mail home reaches its destination more rapidly than the letters written to them. They understand vaguely, of course, that it is probably harder to handle mail in a foreign theater, but why, then, should their mail to the States be delivered so promptly? There are several sound factual reasons. For instance, there is considerably more space for mail available on planes coming to the United States than on those leaving this country for a theater of war. Furthermore, mail from abroad is moving to definite, fixed addresses, easily found, through old established postal channels. The delivery of mail coming from the States into the theater is complicated by the fast movement of organizations, by the difficulties of transportation, often primitive, and by the necessity for giving preference to ammunition and food in combat areas.

The Army Postal Service is constantly striving to provide the best mail service for our troops overseas, but this is possible only through the wholehearted co-operation of the mailing public and military personnel. Be sure to address letters correctly.

Five Civilians Earn Badges and Certificates For Faithful Service



Lieutenant Colonel Henry M. Winans, assistant chief of the Medical Service, presented six-months service ribbons with certificates to five civilian workers of Brooke hospital in a brief ceremony this month. Left to right, those receiving the awards were: Jeanne M. Lawlis, Neurosurgical Service; Pearl Lee Jones, Annex II; Ophelia Dockery, Annex II; Mary Lee Holman, Ward 3; Ruben G. Morales of Medical Supply.

SO, YOU'RE TIRED

By Pvt. Robt. L. Jones

So you're tired working,
And you think you'll rest a bit;
You've been working pretty steady,
And you're getting sick of it.
You think the war is ended,
And you're slowing down to pace;
I guess that's what you're thinking,
But that is not the case.
What would you think if we quit,
Though we are dead tired, too;
We are flesh, and blood, and human,
And we're more tired than you?
Did you ever dig a Fox Hole,
Then get down deep inside,
And wish it went to China,
So you'd have a place to hide?
While the air and ground around you
Were slashed by zipping lead;
And your buddies—God have mercy!
Half of them were dead.
Did you ever dig from under
A mass of sodden dirt,
And feel yourself all over
To find if you were hurt?
And though you couldn't move a limb,
You weren't hurt at all;
And then from sheer exhaustion
You set right there and bawl.
Were you ever hungry?
Not for food that so soon gluts;
But that gnawing, cutting hunger
That filters through your guts?

That's homesick hunger, Mister,
And it digs around inside;
It gets you in its clutches,
And there ain't no place to hide!
Were you ever dirty, Mister?
Not the soiled-shirt week-day kind,
But the greasy, messy, slimy dirt,
The stenchy latrine grime.
And Mister, answer this one:
Have you ever eaten cheese
Until your guts tied all in knots,
Everytime you sneezed?
Friend, have you suffered from the heat;
The kind that makes sweat run?
Well, this heat drives us crazy,
Makes us want to curse the Sun.
Out here the blow flies gather
On dead men's frames so thick
They hardly seem to scatter
Though you stir them with a stick.
And, Mister, have you ever slept
Out in the cold and rain
Until your soul was shattered
And your body cramped with pain?
Say, were you ever weary;
I mean, dog-tired, you know;
When your "dogs" lose all their feeling,
And your legs refuse to go?
Well, we have to keep on going
Until this job is through;
And let me tell you, quitter,
"We expect the same of you!"

(Written in a Fox Hole)

Pvt. DUMBULB - HE AIN'T RIGHT BRIGHT

(1 APRIL 1945)

